

Philippines, and the vatican on the subject of the friar lands in the Philippines, have been completed and the governor's proposals have been agreed to.

President Palma of Cuba is opposed to the rebate proposition relative to Cuban sugar as indicated in the Cuban reciprocity bill. It is announced that should it be impossible for the two houses of congress to agree on this bill, the president will endeavor to simplify the matter by dropping the house out of the calculation and negotiating a treaty with Cuba direct.

Senor Gonzales de Quesada, the new Cuban minister, was received by the president on June 16.

On June 16 the president named Cap-

tain Charles E. Clark as rear admiral. This advances Captain Clark seven numbers in rank.

On the same day Joseph E. Proffitt of West Virginia was also nominated to be consul at Pretoria, South Africa.

On June 16 Senator Teller introduced the following resolution in the senate:

"Whereas, it seems impracticable to prepare during this session of congress and itemized statement showing the collection and disbursement of all funds for the whole period of the military occupation of Cuba, and,

"Whereas, it is important that a statement be now made of the accounts hereafter named; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the secretary of war be, and he is hereby directed to send to the senate the following:

"A full, itemized statement of all payments made out of Cuban funds to any person or corporations, if any, for the purpose of promoting reciprocity between the United States and Cuba, at any time during the military occupation of Cuba by the United States and whether such payments were authorized or approved by the secretary of war."

Mr. Kean (N. J.) objected to immediate consideration of the resolution, and it went over.

A dispatch from Washington says: A favorable report was authorized by the senate committee on public lands on the bill creating a national park surrounding the famous Wind cave in South Dakota. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to protect the cave from vandalism.

It is reported from Washington that Brigadier General Charles Baird has been retired. He rendered splendid service in the civil war, being breveted four times and taking part in a great many of the most important engagements. The outbreak of the Spanish war found him in charge of the army transport service which was in large part his own creation.

On June 17 the house amended the existing bankruptcy law by giving to it four additional grounds for refusing a discharge in bankruptcy. These are: "First, obtaining property on credit on materially false statements; second, making a fraudulent transfer of property; third, having been granted or denied a discharge in bankruptcy within six years, and fourth, having refused to obey the order of the court or refusal to answer material questions approved by the court."

The government has decided that it is best to be prepared for trouble in Venezuela, so one or two warships are to be sent there at once. This action was taken in pursuance of the general policy of looking after American citizens in case of disturbance.

CUBAN RECIPROCITY.

The republican members of the senate committee on Cuban relations finally agreed to accept the Spooner bill providing for reciprocity with Cuba, and decided to ask that a conference of republican senators be called on June 18 to consider its terms.

The Spooner bill is a substitute for the house bill, and is as follows:

"When the republic of Cuba shall have enacted a law or laws establishing preferential rates of customs duties on any or all articles, the growth, production or manufacture of the United States imported into Cuba, which preferential rates shall in the opinion of the president of the United States constitute a satisfactory equivalent for the reduction hereinafter provided in the rate of customs duties upon articles the growth, production or manufacture of Cuba imported into the United States, and he shall so declare by proclamation thereupon and thereafter, so long as such preferential duties shall be continued by the government of Cuba, not longer, however, than five years, the duties levied, paid and collected upon such articles so exported from Cuba to the United

States shall be 80 per centum of the duties specified in the act entitled 'An act to provide revenue for the government and to encourage the industries of the United States,' approved July 24, 1897, and any amendment thereof. Provided, however, that it shall be the duty of the president to thoroughly investigate, through the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States in Cuba, and by such other means as he may deem necessary to employ for the purpose, whether the tariff concessions herein before provided upon articles, the growth, production or manufacture of Cuba substantially inures, so far as the articles of sugar and tobacco are concerned to the benefit of the producers of said articles in Cuba and if the president shall be satisfied from such investigation that the substantial benefit of said concession upon either of said articles is inuring to the purchasers thereof, individual or corporate in the United States, it shall be his duty to so declare by proclamation to that effect, and thereupon and thereafter so long as said conditions shall continue there shall be levied and collected upon such articles or that one of them as to which said conditions exist, the rate of duty levied and collected by law upon such articles or articles coming into the United States from other foreign countries."

On June 18 the president signed the irrigation bill recently passed by congress, and the measure thus became a law.

A recent report from Washington is to the effect that Representative Dermott of New Jersey has introduced a bill for the appointment of federal boards of investigation and arbitration to deal with labor disputes. The measure is said to be prompted by the continuance of the coal strike.

The republican senators held a conference on June 18 on the subject of Cuban reciprocity, and announces their unalterable opposition to reduction of duty on Cuban products. It was the general opinion of the conference that this session of congress would adjourn without Cuban reciprocity legislation of any sort.

On June 11 Mr. Richardson of Tennessee made a vigorous speech in the senate arraigning the republican party for its failure to keep its platform promises, especially as regards the trusts and necessity for tariff reduction.

Mr. Shallenberger of Nebraska made a political speech condemning the administration for removing Miss Taylor, who was a clerk in the war department, for her criticism of the administration's Philippine policy; also for justifying General Wood's expenditure of money in Cuba for the promotion of reciprocity legislation.

After a minute examination of the evidence relating to the disturbance in Venice occasioned by the marines of the cruiser Chicago some time ago, Admiral Crowninshield finds that the crew were ill-treated by the Venetians from start to finish, and clears them of the charge of resisting public authority. The navy department has expressed its pleasure over the result of the admiral's investigation in this case.

The opening day of the week's debate on the Philippine government bill in the house was begun on June 19 by a strong speech by Mr. Cooper

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